



THE FRIENDLY LIGHT

December 2025

Birthdays

12/04
Camille Turner
12/05
Greg Sheets
12/06
Rob Kelley
12/11
Carol Albright
12/15
Kyle Moore
William Moore
12/20
Ed Kearns
12/25
Carlene Davis

Anniversaries

12/21
Willie & Carlene Davis
12/27
Johnny & Anne
Compton

There Goes the Neighborhood

*"The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood."*

(John 1:14, The Message)

Probably one of my favorite passages of scripture during the Advent and Christmas season is the one from the Gospel of John that reminds us of the miracle of the "incarnation". The word "incarnation" literally means "*to become flesh*". In the Common English Bible, it reads, "*The Word became flesh and made his home among us.*" To paraphrase, The Message, reworks it a bit and reads, "*The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.*"

I love the way The Message paraphrases it because in my mind, the neighborhood is where life happens. Neighborhoods are the places in which you and I live. It's where we pay bills, deal with relationships, raise families as well as become "empty nesters" once the kids move out. Neighborhoods are where we welcome friends and family and it's also the places where we say goodbye to friends and family. Neighborhoods are where we celebrate as well as grieve, and neighborhoods are where we experience the different seasons of our life as well as the ups and downs of life. *Neighborhoods are life and it's the stuff of life that others may not often see, but it's real for you and me.*

Advent and Christmas invite us to pay attention to this miracle of the Divine coming to us and taking on human form and living with us. No longer is God's presence "out there" but, rather, with us in the very places in which we live. No longer do we have to separate our "spiritual life" from our "real life", but our "real life" is our spiritual life.



In other words, reality is spirituality and all of life becomes a sacred experience. God became flesh and moved into the neighborhood and God's presence lives with us in the very details of our life.

This also invites us, if you will, to “incarnate” God’s love to the neighborhoods in which we live. One of the phrases I often connect with High Point Friends is that we are here to “*make God’s love real*”. This “making God’s love real” is simply being God’s living presence and love in the neighborhoods in which we live and exist. High Point Friends is situated right in the middle of a neighborhood, and this is the very place we are called to dwell and “make God’s love real”. Rather than it being a liability, maybe our greatest asset as a Quaker meeting is that *we are located in a neighborhood, and that we can be the very place that disconnected and lonely folks can find community, love, and a place of belonging.*

In this way, Christmas for us, as Quakers, is an everyday experience. God becoming flesh and moving into the neighborhood is an everyday reality. We may pay more attention to it during the Season of Advent and Christmas, but the reality of it lives on beyond the Christmas season. Maybe, then, the greatest gift we can offer the neighborhoods in which we exist is that of making God’s love real to these we meet and encounter.

Merry Christmas *Scott*



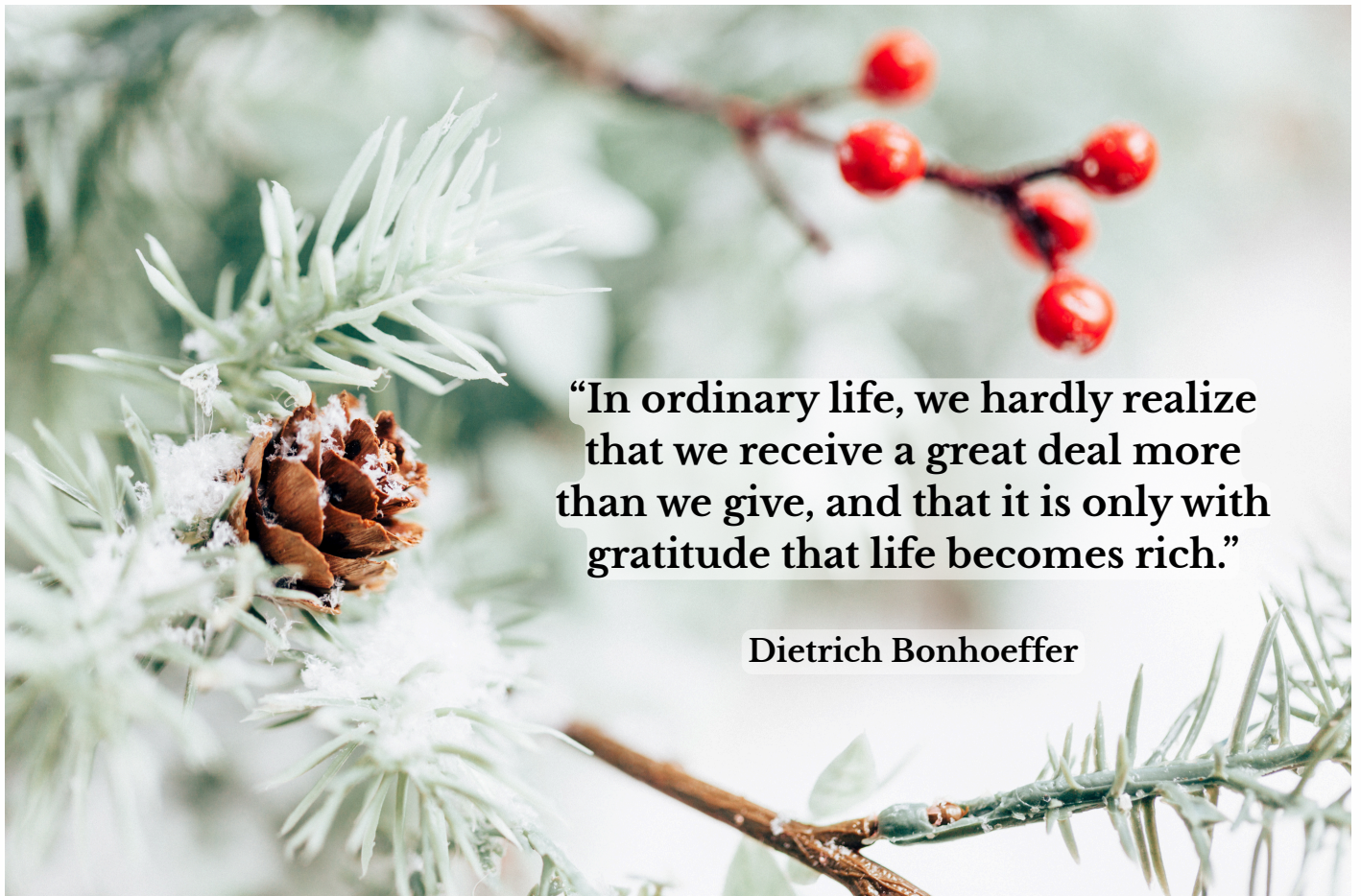
Quaker Corner

Quaker Query/Advice of the Month

Take time to reflect on this query throughout the month and pay attention to how it speaks to your condition and how it challenges us as a Quaker community. Especially during this busy time of year and season, how are you being invited to pay more attention to the world around you and your own “inner landscape”?

Are you alert to practices here and throughout the world which discriminate against people on the basis of who or what they are or because of their beliefs? Bear witness to the humanity of all people, including those who break society’s conventions or its laws. Try to discern new growing points in social and economic life. Seek to understand the causes of injustice, social unrest and fear. Are you working to bring about a just and compassionate society which allows everyone to develop their capacities and fosters the desire to serve?

(Britain Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice)



“In ordinary life, we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A note from Karin.....

Dear Friends,

I am looking forward to celebrating the Christmas season at High Point Friends School and Meeting.

This month at school, we are exploring Friends' testimony of simplicity. This was an intentional decision for a month and season that is so often busy and full of STUFF!

We will be exploring the following queries:

What does it mean to live simply?

Do I find time in my busy day to be kind and help others?

Do I really "need" all the stuff I own?

Are there things that I could share or give away?

We will also begin collecting items for a "Really, Really Free Market" (RRFM) that will take place after the holidays. Imagine a flea market, but everything is free! This will be a wonderful way for us to get rid of unwanted items, keep things out of landfills, and support school families as well as the local community. Any unwanted items will be donated afterward. I am very excited about this project. Stay tuned!

On Sunday, December 14th High Point Friends Meeting will have our next Godly Play story sharing event. The flyer is included in this newsletter. Please email me at kheller@hpfs.org if you are willing/able to bring a snack to share, or if you have any questions, joys, or concerns.

Warmly,
Karin Heller



GODLY PLAY

WITH FRIENDS

HIGH POINT FRIENDS MEETING

800 Quaker Ln. High Point, NC 27262

Please join us on *Sunday, December 14th* at 11 a.m. in Ragan Fellowship Hall for fellowship, refreshments, and Godly Play. This month we will share, "Meeting the Christ Child"

Please join us, and bring a friend!

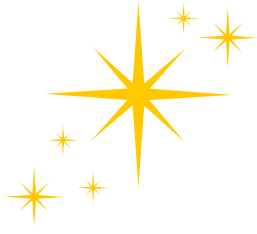
This is an intergenerational offering. We welcome and encourage Friends of all ages to attend.

You can learn more about Godly Play on their website,
<https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org>

**For more information, email Karin Heller at
kheller@hpfs.org**



We welcome you to join us December 21st
at 5pm for our annual



Christmas Candlelight Service

An evening of Readings,
Reflection, Musicians and Vocalists
Refreshments and fellowship to follow

Open to the Community
All are welcome!



Thank You

Thank you for your outpouring of love and generosity as we gathered items for the Santa for Seniors program. Our donations will be included in over 900 holiday bags to be distributed to local seniors who receive Meals on Wheels.

As a continuation of the Quaker values of Community and Service not just at the holidays, but year round, we will have a box dedicated to donations. Any non perishable foods and or self care items are welcome.

All donations will be taken to the food pantry at West End Ministries monthly.

Advent at High Point Friends Meeting

**“He did not wait till the world was ready,
Till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.
He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.**

(Madeleine L'Engle, First Coming)

This year, we will be recognizing the season of Advent as part of our worship. Advent is actually the beginning of the Church Calendar and the Christian Year. Where our regular calendars are pointing to the end of the year, Advent is the start of the Church Calendar. It's a season that moves us deeper into darkness even as we put out candles and Christmas lights. The darkness invites us into deeper reflection and wondering and even questions. Author Diana Butler Bass describes it this way, “Advent is twinned with the winter solstice. We are exiles in time, wandering still in the wilderness, and following start toward dreams of a better world that we can never quite reach...As night lengthens, Christians light a single candle every week against the shadows of fear, doubt, despair, and hatred.” And that is what we will do. Each Sunday we will light a candle as part of our meeting for worship as we look to the Eternal Light in our seasons of doubt and despair.

Each Sunday there will be a one-word theme for each candle and we will provide prompts for you during the week that provides spiritual practices for you to fully participate in Advent as you feel led. We hope you will join us for worship during this special time of year and that Advent can be a meaningful journey for you.

November 30 – Hope

December 7 – Peace

December 14 – Joy

December 21 – Love

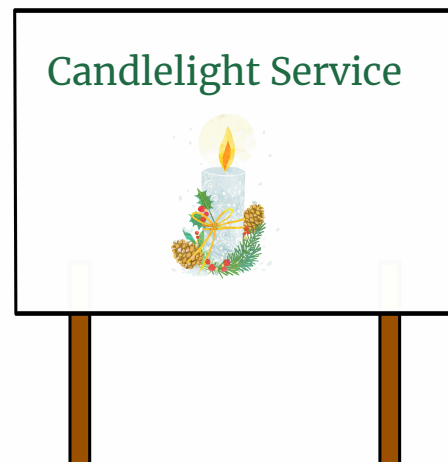




Choir Rehearsal Schedule

The choir rehearses every Wednesday beginning at 5:15PM and meet in the Worship Room (Sanctuary). If you can give a little time (and your voice), the choir welcomes new singers! We appreciate what they and Wanda bring to our time of worship.

We have extra Christmas Candlelight Service yard signs available. If you would like a sign for your yard, please let Scott or Nichole know!



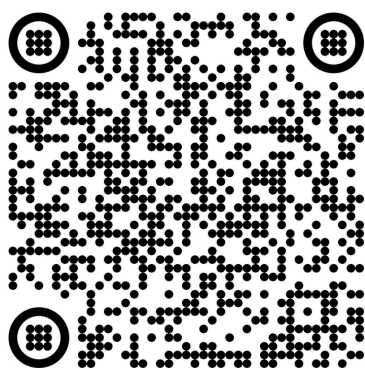
High Point Friends Online Giving Portal

← Scan the QR CODE
or go to the website below to donate
securely from your phone or other smart device.

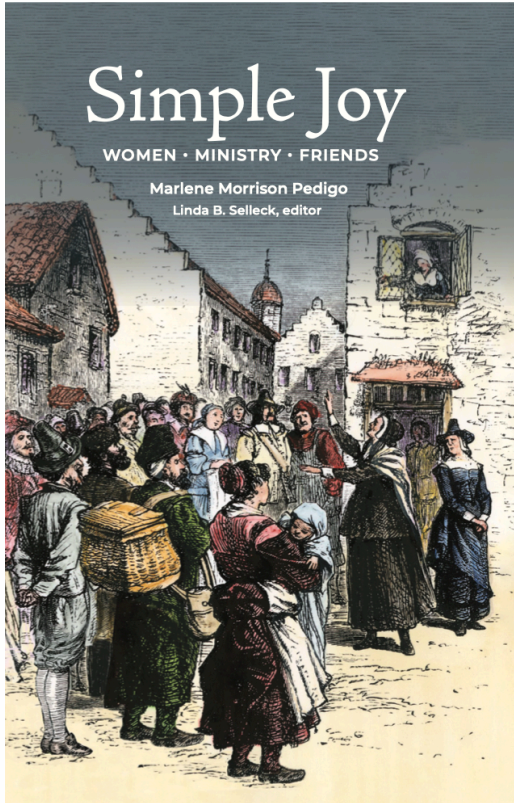
<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/highpointfriends/1902>

Your support helps High Point Friends
Meeting continue to fulfill its mission and
ministry effectively.

Thank you!



Simple Joy- Now available on Friends United Press



The inspiration for this book came to Marlene Pedigo years ago when she uncovered the stories of the New Testament women compelled to travel in Holy Spirit-led ministry and proclaim the Risen Christ, and learned about Friends women ministers while she was a student at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

Several years ago when she attended a Young Adult Friends Summit Conference and realized there was a hunger to know more about the New Testament women, the legacy of Friends women recorded in public ministry, and how women might minister today, she realized it was time to begin the task.

Each chapter focuses upon the legacy of a New Testament woman in ministry, the witness of a historic Friends woman minister, and Marlene's personal experience of ministry in the Friends Church. Throughout is woven an emphasis upon prayer since this book is meant to be savored as a personal

devotional, and then shared with a spiritual friend or Sunday School class or study group. Journaling queries, discussion questions, and "Faith in Action" suggestions are provided for each chapter.

Author Marlene Morrison Pedigo

Linda B. Selleck, editor

Experience Christmas at Quaker Lake with an evening of worship as we pause to remember the reason for the season!

Arrive at 5:00pm on Sunday, December 7th and park at the Multipurpose Building. Enjoy a nice candlelit stroll to the picnic shelter. Following the service, all are welcome to warm up with hot chocolate, apple cider, and s'mores by a fire.



Introducing: **HYBRID HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM**

at High Point Friends School



Enroll part-time at HPFS to enrich your current homeschool experience through an Independent, Friends School community.

We are excited to announce that beginning in January, current homeschool students in grades 5-8 are invited to enroll in our unique hybrid program. This program allows middle school students to attend in-person at High Point Friends School on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and work from home with a parent using materials provided by HPFS teachers on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. This allows families to maintain some autonomy over their homeschool program, while also experiencing the benefits of an Independent, Friends School education.

Learn more: bit.ly/HPFSHybrid

High Point Friends School Annual Fund

Join 100% of the faculty and staff who have already made a donation to the annual fund, and help us meet our family giving goal of \$6200. We're halfway there!

Don't forget: if we meet our goal by December 3, Rob will dye his hair blue!

For more information for to hpfs.org/support



Our quarterly Meeting for Business was held on Sunday, November 26, after meeting for worship, Here is a summary of items that were approved and discussed.

- A 2026 Budget was **approved**. *Please contact the office at office@highpointfriends.org if you would like a copy.*
- **Nichole Looney - Office Administrator** - has been creating partnerships and connections with West End Ministries and Senior Resources of Guilford County for our meeting to be engaged in outreach and service through giving. We will also be receiving on a regular basis canned food items/nonperishables to donate to West End Ministries Food Pantry.
- **Friends United Meeting (FUM)** is in the midst of a financial challenge. There are many positive things happening in and through Friends United Meeting. In order to do that, they are in the midst of a significant fundraising campaign to raise \$650,000 by the end of December of this year. **High Point Friends recently gave a contribution of \$10,000 to Friends United Meeting to help with their financial needs.**
- **House & Grounds** - Significant drainage work around the meetinghouse grounds has been completed. The HVAC unit between the Music Room and Kitchen is in need of repair and will be repaired within the month. The Meeting will be seeking estimates/proposals on the trimming and pruning of the trees in the main front yard area and around the main parking areas.
- **A Visioning and Planning Day for High Point Friends** will happen on either Saturday, January 31 or Saturday, February 7. This will be from 9AM - 12 Noon. This will be a time of looking back over the past year as well as looking forward to the year ahead as we dream, plan, and seek to be faithful to the gifts we have been given.
- **70th Anniversary of Dedication of the Meetinghouse** - October 2026 marks 70 years since the dedication of the Meetinghouse we presently gather in. We will be forming a "working group" of folks to help plan events and focus for October 2026 to help us celebrate this milestone.
- **"Reimagine High Point Friends"** - In our January/February "visioning and planning day", we will form a "Reimagine High Point Friends" committee/working group that will meet to discern, dream, and discover what a new future looks like for High Point Friends Meeting as we build on our present growth and our past history.

If you have any questions about any of the business items, or the budget, you can reach out to the office (office@highpointfriends.org / 336-884-1359) or Scott at scottwagoner62@gmail.com

Center for Spiritual Deepening and Development

High Point Friends Meeting

“To live contemplatively means simply to approach life with openness, availability, and growing responsiveness to the God who speaks in everything, to the God who speaks from the depths of our very selves, to the God who spoke us into existence.”

(Roger Owens, *Everyday Contemplative*)

Dear Friends,

It is my dream and hope to begin to offer experiences and gatherings (half-day retreats, book studies, Zoom gatherings, etc.) that offer opportunities for folks to explore the spiritual life in a deeper way if one feels led to do so. The Quaker author, Richard Foster, wrote many years ago, “*The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people.*” I believe that to still be true today. Over the next few weeks and months, I’ll slowly introduce opportunities for Friends to participate in offerings that invite us into that deeper experience as well as the abundant life Jesus offers us.

With Gratitude

Scott

Still Waters Contemplative Call - Every Wednesday and Sunday evenings from 8:00PM - 8:30PM, I offer a simple contemplative prayer call via Zoom for anyone that would like to participate. I’ll include the links in our regular emails. Please feel free to join the call any time.

Intentional “Pause & Pray” Wednesdays - This is simply a day I invite each of us to give intention to pray for one another and the concerns for our world. We often open our Haworth Chapel from 10AM - 4PM for anyone that would like to use the space to sit and pray in the silence.



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study at 10AM in Ragan Hall.

Our weekly Bible Study meets every Tuesday morning in Ragan Fellowship Hall. This study is open to anyone and study guides are provided. We use the *Illuminate* study guide published by Barclay Press (Quaker publisher) *Starting in December, we'll be focusing on the book of Genesis.* There is always a lively discussion and conversation and plenty of space for each person to explore their own spiritual journey as well as support one another in their spiritual journey.

Join us at 10AM on Tuesdays

Everyone is Welcome

& Coffee is always on!

Intentional "Pause & Pray" Wednesdays

We are opening our Haworth Chapel and Meeting Library from 10AM-4PM for anyone that would like to avail themselves of the space to simply be present and pray. We invite Friends to take time on these Wednesdays to pray for our world, one another, and our own personal needs and concerns.

Please keep these Friends in prayer

Candace Heer continues to reside at Piney Grove Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. If you would like to send her a card, their address is **728 Piney Grove Road, Kernersville, NC 27284.** She would welcome and appreciate your cards!

Lynda Wagoner - As she continues her chemotherapy treatment at Duke University Hospital. Her next treatment cycle is scheduled for **December 2-6**

Keith Lambeth - Keith is home and recovering from his heart bypass surgery. Continue to hold Keith in prayer during his time of recovery and regaining strength.

Catherine Warren - As she recovers from recent knee replacement surgery.

Eloise Farlow - Please continue to offer prayers for her and her ongoing health concerns.

Gerrie Bowles - Gerrie is presently a Piedmont Crossing in Thomasville, NC, after having spent some time at High Point hospital. Please continue to pray for her strength and recovery.

Tom Gray - Tom is the son-in-law of meeting member, Betty Jo Hayes. Tom will be having hip replacement surgery on December 4.



**HIGH
POINT** *friends*
MEETING

**800 Quaker Lane
High Point NC 27262
Phone: 336-884-1359
www.highpointfriends.org**

Meeting Clerk-- Hanna Moore

Pastoral Minister-- Scott Wagoner

Piano & Choir Director-- Wanda Simmons

Office Administrator-- Nichole Looney

Dir. of Intergenerational Ministries & Community Life -- Karin Heller

**Established in 1892
133 Years of Service in the High Point Community**